4. Software Technology Parks Scheme.

5. Special Stock Option Schemes for Indian Software Companies linked with ADR/GDR offering.

6. Working Capital Finance to Information Technology and Software industry.

7. Sweat Equity has been introduced in the Companies Act.

8. Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) access upto 50% of FOB value of exports for units under Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Processing Zone (EPZ)/Software Technology Parks (STP) Scheme.

9. Depreciation on Computer @60% per annum.

10. Reduction in Custom Duty on computer and peripherals to 15%. The customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors is @ 0%.

11. Software exempted from custom duty and excise duty.

12. Relaxation in income tax to software units under EOU/EPZ/STP Schemes.

13. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings.

14. Computer systems have been made freely importable. The donation of used computers to educational institutes, hospitals etc. have been permitted duty free from units in EOU/EPZ/STP/Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)

15. Exemption on income from dividents on Venture Capital Fund.

16. "Business Support Centre" has been opened in "Silicon Valley" California, USA to assist small & medium enterprises in establishing strategic alliance in the US.

Threats to Fijian nationals of Indian Origin

*180. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the recent crisis in Fiji, whether it is a fact that Fijian nationals of Indian origin are facing great threats to their life and property; and

(b) whether Government have taken any specific steps to ensure the safety and security of these people of Indian origin?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) All Fijians including of Indian origin are facing difficulties as a result of the recent crisis.

(b) The Government of India have taken every step that was possible in the circumstances to safeguard democracy, rule of law and the interests of all peace loving Fijians, along with those of Indian origin, too. I have been in frequent touch with Foreign Ministers of several countries, in particular those of Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom on the cirsis in Fiji. Consultations have also been held with the Secretary General of the Commonwealth. A senior official delegation of the Ministry of External Affairs was sent in early June, 2000 to Australia and New Zealand for consultations with these Governments and to Fiji to study the situation at first hand. The situation in Fiji was discussed by PM with Australian PM John Howard during his official visit to India from 10-11 July, 2000. This issue was discussed during the recent ARF in Bangkok. In addition, during the Senior Officials Meeting of the Commonwealth in Pretoria, on 25-26 July the issue of Fiji was discussed at length.

India's stress is on the restoration of the lawfully constituted Government of PM Chaudhry, resumption of the democratic processes and restoration of racial harmony in Fiji. The 1997 Constitution provides an appropriate framework for these ends.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Remunerative Prices to Farmers engaged in oilseed cultivation

1241. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers engaged in oilseeds cultivations are facing major problems now a days due to excess imports of edible oils from Malaysia, Argentina and Brazil;

(b) if so, whether these farmers are getting remunerative prices of their produces;

(c) if so, whether these farmers may switch to other crops;